

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1           1.       A method of generating a price comprising:  
2           generating a delta price; and  
3           generating a final price using said delta price.
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2           generating a price; and  
3           generating said final price using said price and said delta price.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 2, wherein  
2           said price is a base price.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 2, wherein  
2           said final price is associated with a product, and  
3           said delta price is generated in response to a selection of a feature for said  
4           product.
- 1           5.       The method of claim 2, wherein  
2           said final price is associated with a product, and  
3           said final price is generated in response to a selection of a feature for said  
4           product.
- 1           6.       The method of claim 2, wherein  
2           said delta price is generated by a server,  
3           said delta price is generated in response to a selection of a feature at a client,  
4           and  
5           said client is communicatively coupled to said server.
- 1           7.       The method of claim 6, wherein  
2           said final price is displayed by said client in response to said selection of said  
3           feature.

1        8.        The method of claim 2, wherein  
 2        said price is generated in response to a selection of a first item, and  
 3        said delta price is generated in response to a selection of a second item.

1        9.        The method of claim 8, wherein  
 2        said first and said second items are products.

1        10.       The method of claim 8, wherein  
 2        said first and said second items are services.

1        11.       The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
 2        generating another delta price; and  
 3        generating another final price using said price and said another delta price.

1        12.       The method of claim 11, wherein  
 2        said delta price and said another delta price are generated by a server,  
 3        said delta price is generated in response to a first selection of a first feature at  
 4        a client,  
 5        said another delta price is generated in response to a second selection of a  
 6        second feature at said client, and  
 7        said client is communicatively coupled to said server.

1        13.       The method of claim 12, wherein  
 2        said final price and said another final price are displayed by said client in  
 3        response to said selections of said first and said second features,  
 4        allowing comparison between said final price and said another final  
 5        price.

1        14.       A software architecture comprising:  
 2        a quote processor configured to process a super-quote, wherein  
 3        said super-quote is configured to cause a plurality of database accesses.

1        15.       The software architecture of claim 14, further comprising:

2 a pricing service, configured to instantiate said quote processor; and  
3 a pricing engine, communicatively coupled to said pricing service.

1 16. The software architecture of claim 15, wherein said pricing engine is  
2 configured to receive said quote processor.

1 17. The software architecture of claim 15, wherein said pricing engine is  
2 configured to generate pricing data.

1 18. The software architecture of claim 15, wherein said quote processor is  
2 a plug-in that is executed within a context of said pricing service.

1 19. The software architecture of claim 15, wherein said pricing service is  
2 further configured to generate a gather data call.

1 20. The software architecture of claim 19, wherein said pricing service is  
2 further configured to generate a pricing data call.

1 21. The software architecture of claim 14, further comprising:  
2 a database layer;  
3 a services layer, coupled to said database layer and comprising said quote  
4 processor; and  
5 a module layer, coupled to said services layer.

1 22. The software architecture of claim 21, wherein said services layer  
2 further comprises:  
3 a pricing service, coupled to said module layer and configured to instantiate  
4 said quote processor.

1 23. The software architecture of claim 22, wherein said quote processor is  
2 a plug-in that is executed within a context of said pricing service.

1 24. The software architecture of claim 22, wherein said pricing service is  
2 further configured to generate a gather data call.

1           25.    The software architecture of claim 24, wherein said pricing service is  
2 further configured to generate a pricing data call.

1           26.    The software architecture of claim 22, wherein said services layer  
2 further comprises:  
3           a pricing engine, coupled to said database layer and communicatively coupled  
4           to said pricing service.

1           27.    The software architecture of claim 26, wherein said database layer  
2 comprises:  
3           a database, wherein said pricing engine is configured to access said database  
4           in response to receiving a gather data call from said pricing service.

1           28.    The software architecture of claim 27, wherein said pricing engine is  
2 configured to generate pricing data in response to receiving a pricing data call from  
3 said pricing service without accessing said database.

1           29.    The software architecture of claim 26, wherein said pricing engine is  
2 configured to generate pricing data in response to receiving a pricing data call from  
3 said pricing service without accessing said database layer.

1           30.    The software architecture of claim 26, wherein said database layer  
2 comprises:  
3           a database, said pricing engine coupled to said database.

1           31.    The software architecture of claim 26, wherein said pricing service is  
2 configured to receive said quote processor.

1           32.    The software architecture of claim 31, wherein said quote processor is  
2 a plug-in that is executed within a context of said pricing service.

1           33.    The software architecture of claim 21, wherein said module layer  
2 further comprises:

a pricing module, communicatively coupled to said pricing engine.

34. The software architecture of claim 33, wherein said module layer further comprises:

a catalog module, communicatively coupled to said pricing module.

35. A method of retrieving information comprising:  
performing a plurality of queries on a database;  
receiving a plurality of data at a pricing engine in response to said queries; and  
providing at least one of said data without accessing said database.

36. The method of claim 35, further comprising:  
instantiating a quote processor.

37. The method of claim 36, further comprising:  
passing said quote processor to said pricing engine.

38. The method of claim 37, further comprising:  
receiving a gather data call at said pricing engine; and  
performing said queries in response to said pricing engine receiving said  
gather data call.

39. The method of claim 38, further comprising:  
receiving a pricing data call at said pricing engine; and  
providing said at least one of said data in response to said pricing engine  
receiving said pricing data call.

40. The method of claim 35, further comprising:  
receiving a gather data call at said pricing engine; and  
performing said queries in response to said pricing engine receiving said  
gather data call.

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising:  
receiving a pricing data call at said pricing engine; and

3 providing said at least one of said data in response to said pricing engine  
4 receiving said pricing data call.

1 42. The method of claim 41, further comprising:  
2 receiving a request from a pricing module at a pricing service, wherein said  
3 pricing data call is generated by said pricing service in response to said  
4 pricing service receiving said request.

1 43. The method of claim 40, wherein said gather data call is generated by a  
2 pricing service.

1 44. The method of claim 43, further comprising:  
2 receiving a request from a pricing module at a pricing service.

1 45. The method of claim 44, wherein said gather data call is generated by  
2 said pricing service in response to said pricing service receiving said request.

1 46. The method of claim 44, further comprising:  
2 causing said pricing service to provide a quote to said pricing module in  
3 response to said request.

1 47. The method of claim 44, wherein said pricing module generates said  
2 request based on information provided by a catalog module.

1 48. The method of claim 44, further comprising:  
2 building a super-quote.

1 49. The method of claim 48, further comprising:  
2 sending said super-quote to a pricing service; and  
3 instantiating a quote processor in response to receiving said super-quote.

1 50. The method of claim 49, further comprising:  
2 passing said quote processor to said pricing engine.

1        51.     The method of claim 50, further comprising:  
2        receiving a gather data call at said pricing engine; and  
3        performing said queries in response to said pricing engine receiving said  
4        gather data call.

1        52.     The method of claim 51, further comprising:  
2        receiving a pricing data call at said pricing engine; and  
3        providing said at least one of said data in response to said pricing engine  
4        receiving said pricing data call.